

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

450 Columbus Blvd.

State Office Building Renovations
Hartford, Connecticut

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About the Art in Public Spaces Program:

Connecticut's Art in Public Spaces program was established in 1978 and requires 1% of the cost of construction or renovation of publicly accessible state buildings be allocated for the commission or purchase of artwork as part of the building's construction project. The [Connecticut Office of the Arts](http://www.coa.ct.gov) and the Department of Administrative Services jointly administer the Art in Public Spaces Program. Visit the [Art in Public Spaces](http://www.artinpublicspaces.org) program webpage for further information about the program and to view past installations throughout the state.

Project Summary:

The Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) and the [Capital Region Development Authority \(CRDA\)](http://www.crda.ct.gov) are currently seeking qualifications from artists for an exterior work of art for the new state office building located in downtown Hartford.

Budget: approximately \$152,000.00

RFQ Deadline: October 15, 2014

Eligibility:

Artists MUST register a portfolio in the Art in Public Spaces Registry. Submit a new registration or update an existing profile by the deadline indicated above. Review the [registry webpage](http://www.artinpublicspaces.org/registry) for further information about the registration process. The project is open to both in-state and out-of-state artists.

About the 450 Columbus Blvd. Hartford project:

The State of Connecticut purchased the downtown building a year ago and is now in the process of planning exterior and interior renovations. The dual-tower building complex will house a number of key State agencies that service the public. In 2016, approximately 2,300 state employees will move in, making this the largest State office building in Connecticut.

The architecture of the building consists of a lower building with a parking garage and two towers that rise above at plaza level. The building was originally built in 1984 and was home to employees working in the insurance industry. The 15- and 11-story towers are situated along I-91 and are a prominent feature of Hartford's skyline and highly visible when crossing the Connecticut River into the City of Hartford.

The surface material is a pink hue of pre-cast concrete and is combined with pink-tinted reflective windows. These windows may be replaced at a later time with new energy-efficient upgrades; therefore, the building's appearance may be altered at a later time.

The new State Office Building on Columbus Boulevard will have a significant impact on revitalization efforts in downtown Hartford. Columbus Boulevard has been experiencing recent transformations; on one side of State Street is the Connecticut Science Center, the Connecticut Convention Center and the Front Street Development (movie theater, restaurant and concert venue); the other side includes the new State Office Building and a residential condominium redevelopment project currently underway. In addition to Riverfront and Constitution Plaza, Columbus Boulevard is becoming a more vibrant pedestrian friendly area that links together the live, work and play characteristics of a downtown.

Project Description:

The Site Committee is interested in a public art experience that will complement Downtown Hartford and further enhance the improvements taking shape along Columbus Boulevard. As a result, the committee is interested in an exterior work of art that may be affixed to the building's façade. The artwork should engage the public at both street level and plaza level in such a way that it draws the eye upward from street level and pulls the eye down when walking along the plaza.

The committee has identified the exterior as an ideal location for art as there is a strong desire to soften the façade of the garage which is otherwise dominated by horizontal lines typical of a parking structure. In addition, the overall renovation project includes limited landscape, sidewalk and site improvements. Therefore, a public art installation in this location should humanize the façade and provide both contrasting and complimentary characteristics. A specific material has not been specified but the committee is leaning towards a sculptural installation that would be affixed to the façade and may gracefully reach outward.



*View from pedestrian bridge on Constitution Plaza
Left side facing building*



*View from pedestrian bridge on Constitution Plaza
Right side facing building*

At present time, most visitors will enter at street level with the possibility of further plaza access in the future. Another detail is the flow of traffic along Columbus Blvd which is currently a one-way street with traffic flowing towards State Street. While it's important to be aware of the current flow of traffic, it's also important to consider that future alterations may turn Columbus Blvd. into a two-way street. Therefore, artists must consider a design appropriate for the current conditions and one that anticipates adjustments in the way the public engages with the work of art.

While considering the architectural characteristics of the building along with the downtown Hartford location, artists are also encouraged to consider the rich history and culture of our State. As the largest State Government building and one that will be home to multiple state agencies, it's important for the artwork to convey a relationship between government and the public.

Selection Process:

The 450 Columbus Blvd. renovation project is administered as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Therefore, artists interested in this project must first register a portfolio in the [Art in Public Spaces Registry](#). There is no application process. The site committee will review the portfolios of artists registered in the database and will shortlist a group of artists who will be invited to submit site-specific proposals for the project.

Portfolios of artists already registered in the Art in Public Spaces Registry will automatically be reviewed. The registry is designed as a one-time registration process and allows artists to be considered for multiple projects. Portfolios should indicate a range of work samples and updates may be made as needed; however, COA recommends limiting updates to no more than once a year.

Project Timeline *(all dates are subject to change):*

RFQ Deadline:	Wednesday, October 15, 2014
Issue RFP to shortlisted artists:	early November, 2014
Artist selected by:	early February, 2015
Projected fully executed contract / project start date:	summer 2015
Project installation / work completed by:	Fall 2016

Contact:

For ALL questions related to the Art in Public Spaces program and for this specific RFQ contact:

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